



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Updates

September 2021

For the ACAC meeting held online this month, we again anticipate focusing on a shortlist of items in need of voting, or priority discussion of future actions. In keeping with Open Meetings, these notes, [**September agenda**](#), and "Executive Order on Remote Participation" will be published publicly at least 48-hours before the meeting. We will circulate a Registration Process for the Meeting.

Please feel free to contact the chairs with any clarification or correction, to add any new business, and **ESPECIALLY NOTE** if any committee item entails a significant budget request, procedural change, or other action that requires a vote.

We acknowledge that the town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusett Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusett Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusett territories today.

PRELIMINARY TO MEETING

Review this document and add comments, corrections, new business.

Review [**last month's Meeting's minutes**](#) and be prepared to vote on modification or approval.

All Commissioners review and understand Town's "[**Remote Participation Meeting Checklist**](#)" and guidelines for Zoom meetings, collected in a Google Drive folder, [**ACAC Remote Open Meetings Notes and Guidelines**](#).

RESOURCES

[ACAC Bylaws](#) | [ACAC on Town Website](#) | [ACAC Operations Plan](#) | [Strategic Plan](#) | [ACAC Annual Report](#)

COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

FY22 Commission Meetings Schedule: First Thursdays at 7PM unless quorum can't be attained. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 7 at 7PM**.

Fundraising: The Fundraising Committee has been following up with businesses that supported our [Spruce Up, Arlington: Get Your Sparkle On!](#) campaign. All businesses received a personal thank you and were invited to the Chairful event on August 21. We have also provided businesses with an opportunity to be featured in an upcoming ACAC newsletter, and we are getting ACAC window clings made so that businesses can let their customers know they are active supporters of the arts in Arlington. In July, the Fundraising Committee also submitted the final report for our FY21 Cultural District grant from Massachusetts Cultural Council. **Adria Arch** outdid herself for this year's annual [Chairful](#) fundraiser, which got off to a great start with a well-attended event including several artists, live music, an artist talk by [Leslie Wilcox](#) and reading by poet **Jessie Brown** on August 21. ACMI News published a [very nice segment previewing Chairful](#) and [Art Outdoors](#) published a nice summary. The event kicked off a two-week online auction; all commissioners, committee members, and friends are encouraged to help strongly promote the online auction at [BiddingOwl.com/ArtsArlington](#) right up through the end of bidding on 9/5/2021!

VisitArlington: Commissioner **Beth Locke** announces that The Chamber of Commerce is producing a publication - *Visit Arlington Magazine & Community Guide 2021/2022*. It has approx 45 advertisers and the articles include a spread on the Cultural District, an article about the "Reflecting" installations from Cecily, a short article on Arlington authors, an article on the Jason Russell House, and one on the Dallin Museum. It will be distributed by mailing to a select list and by leaving free copies at key locations. The Chamber seeks help finding locations outside of Arlington where the magazine can be left. i.e. Lex and Concord visitor centers, regional arts centers, etc. Please email me with any ideas. A digital version of the magazine will be posted on [visitarlinton.org](#) and will be up for a year. All of the ads will be linked to businesses' website or videos. VisitArlington would like to exchanges links and event posts with ArtsArlington. Contact Beth for details and ideas.

Arlington Cultural District: Our Cultural District designation is up for renewal by the MCC in 2023. The MCC's Cultural District Initiative Grant this year will again be \$7,500, with no requirement for a match. The grant will open in Early September with a deadline of October 15. **Andrea Nicolay** will update the Managing Partner agreement to reflect the evolution of ACD and ACAC, and present for discussion at an upcoming meeting of Core Managing Partners.

ArtLinks: Artlinks' August event was A Field trip to Tower Hill Botanic Garden: Wild Hideaways Exhibit to view the works of Laurie Bogdan and Kimberley Harding. [Mimi Kirchner](#) is the featured Artlinks artist on ArtsArlington. **LexArt** invited Artlinks and other Arlington artists to submit to a collaborative multitown exhibition in its new gallery. **Lidia Kenig-Scher** is continuing to research artist studio and live-work options in Arlington and seeking others who would like to assist in this effort.

Community Engagement: **Cecily Miller** reports that the group of 12 hard-working interns have created a great deal of content during their research for the Climate Futures marker project with Tom Starr. Before they return to school, the team hopes to finalize a first group of 16-20 Climate Futures markers, and draft copy for signage to accompany markers using QR codes. There's still much to decide and to do surrounding the project, but some upcoming priorities to decide on include: a Fall celebratory event with APCD (Planning & Community Development), to feature guest speakers and several partnering community groups; create a wheatpaste mural somewhere that would allow previewing of the student markers this fall; launch a companion website; and possibly hold a small related exhibition of artwork in Robbins Library.

Nilou Moothala was featured on ACMI with some of the interviewees she collaborated with for her [reflecting on our pandemic experience](#) project at Menotomy Rocks Park and Kickstand Cafe.

Grace Willoughby was a huge help this summer, coordinating Live Arts performances all around town, supporting cross-program events including Heights Haiku and Chairful, and participating as an artist in painting creating Haiku and Painted Utility Boxes herself. Her painting was featured in a special projects video on [Boston 25 News](#). We wish her the best as she heads back to her college studies this fall.

Seven boxes have been painted around town through the [Utility Boxes program](#), coordinated this year with the assistance **Laurie Bogdan**, who is also coordinating the Arlington [Go Out Doors - Neighbors](#) program this year, and an active member of the **Artlinks** Steering Committee.

The Commission looks forward to working with **Sarah Kelly Gurney** as the coordinator of this year's **Youth Banner** project, along with APS and **Gracie James Foundation**.

Marketing: **Terry Holt** has kept up with the increasing number of ACAC-related events this summer, maintaining a semi-monthly newsletter schedule and sometimes more frequent notices, as well as an accelerated website update schedule. ACMI, Boston 25, local newspapers, and regional arts media have covered a number of ACAC events this summer.

REQUESTED NEW BUSINESS